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March 18, 1986

The Honorable William J. Casey Director of Central Intelligence Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

We are sympathetic to the concerns you expressed late last year in your letter to Chairman Hamilton of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence regarding requests for CIA information from various other House committees. While we cannot speak directly to the situation in the House of Representatives, our impression is that the issue has arisen with less frequency and intensity in the Senate.

It is important to note that Senate Resolution 400 of the 94th Congress, which established the Select Committee and sets forth its jurisdiction, speaks directly to the issue of other committees' prerogatives. Thus, section 3(c) states that:

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as prohibiting or otherwise restricting the authority of any other committee to study and review any intelligence activity to the extent that such activity directly affects a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of such committee. (emphasis added)

And section 3(d) declares that:

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as amending, limiting, or otherwise changing the authority of any standing committee of the Senate to obtain full and prompt access to the <u>product</u> of the intelligence activities of any department or

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The Honorable William J. Casey February 26, 1986 Page 2

agency of the Government relevant to a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of such committee. (emphasis added)

These provisions must, of course, be read in conjunction with the later enacted statutory provisions on Congressional oversight in title V of the National Security Act.

It seems to us, therefore, that while it probably would not be possible for the Select Committee to assert jurisdiction over intelligence matters with absolute exclusivity, a strong case can be made for confining sensitive operational details and sources and methods information to the SSCI. Judgments about the appropriateness of imparting intelligence information to other committees of the Congress must, of course, depend on the facts and circumstances of particular cases. As in the past, the Select Committee stands ready to extend its good offices and provide its physical facilities so that information may be provided to other committees or Members under SSCI auspices with the protections afforded by section 8 of Senate Resolution 400. We also stand ready to consult with you if problems similar to those you described in your letter to HPSCI Chairman Hamilton should arise in the Senate.

In the final analysis, Bill, we believe that the surest way of avoiding the kinds of problems you have described lies in maintaining amongst the Members of the Senate the conviction that the Select Committee on Intelligence is engaged in secure and effective oversight of our nation's intelligence activities. A cooperative and productive relationship between the Intelligence Community and the Intelligence Committee must, therefore, remain our constant mutual goal.

Dave Durenbe Chairman

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Patrick Leahy Vice Chairman